



THE BOROUGH OF WAREHAM.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1939.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health	E.J. O'KEEFFE, B.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Sanitary Inspector (Part time appointment)	Mr. J. BRIDLE.
Health Visitor (Dorset County Council appointment.)	Miss ELLIOTT.

The Medical Officer of Health also holds the appointments as Medical Officer of Health to the Swanage Urban District Council, Wareham and Purbeck Rural District Council, and Assistant Medical Officer to Dorset County Council.

Public Health Office,
12a. Institute Road,
Swanage.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Wareham.

Your Worship, Miss Plowman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the
health and sanitary conditions of the Borough of Wareham for the
year 1939

The report whilst similar to those of previous years, is, in
accordance with the directions of the Ministry of Health in the
relevant circulars, much curtailed.

The principal features of the year under review have been the
completion of the scheme for the extension of the sewerage system,
and the sanctioning by the Ministry of Health of a scheme for
improving the quality of the water supply and making an additional
supply available.

The outbreak of war brought work under the Housing Act to a
standstill, but the Council was fortunate in having already dealt
with the insanitary areas in the district.

I wish to express my thanks to yourselves for your consideration
during the year, and also to the Sanitary Inspector for his
co-operation and the efficient manner in which he carried out his
many duties.

I have the honour to remain,
Your Worship, Miss Plowman and Gentlemen
Your obedient Servant,

E.J. O'KEEFFE.

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

- 710 Acres.

POPULATION. Registrar-General's estimate of			
(a)	Resident Population. Mid. 1939	...	2506
(b)	Average Population appropriate to the calculation of death rates	...	2512

747

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939) according to the rate book			
Rateable value	...	...	£13,511
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	£52-14-5

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

		<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>		
Live Births	) Legitimate	35	18	17	) Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	14.6
	) Illegitimate	1	1	-		
Still Births	) Legitimate	-	-	-	) Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	27.0
	) Illegitimate	1	-	1		
Deaths		33	19	14	) Death rate per 1,000 estimated average population	13.1

Live Births. (For the purpose of calculation of infant and maternal mortality) :-

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Legitimate	36	19	17
Illegitimate	1	1	-

Deaths from Puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's report list) :-

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29. Puerperal Sepsis.	Nil	Nil
No. 30. Other Puerperal Causes.	Nil	Nil
Total.	Nil	Nil

Deaths of infants under one year of age :-

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	1	1	-

Rate of infants under one year of age :-

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	54.0
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	27.7
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	1,000.0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	6
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	-
Deaths from Diarrhoea (all ages)	...	-

Birth, Death, Infant and Maternal Mortality Rates
during the year 1939.

	Births per 1,000 Population		Deaths All Causes per 1,000 Population	Deaths under 1 year of age per 1,000 Live Births	Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.		
	Live Births	Still Births			Puerperal Sepsis	Others	Total
England and Wales.	15.0	0.59	12.1	50	0.74	2.08	2.82
148 Smaller Towns estimated resident population 25,000- 50,000 at 1931 Census.	15.6	0.57	11.2	40	Not available		
Wareham Borough.	14.3	0.35	13.1	54.0	Nil	Nil	Nil

There were no noteworthy causes of sickness or invalidity during the year, nor any conditions of occupation or environment which would appear to have a prejudicial effect on health.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

Since the 1st January 1939, all specimens of public health importance, including water and milk samples for bacteriological examination, are sent to the County Laboratory, Glyde Path Road, Dorchester, for examination. With the exception of milk samples examination is free of charge to the Borough Council.

There was no change in the other services provided in the area.

SANITARY PROVISIONS OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The Ministry of Health's approval of a scheme for the use of an alternative source of supply and the treatment of water to improve its quality, was obtained during the year.

Samples of water were taken regularly for bacteriological examination, the total number of samples examined was 28. The results of examination were in all cases satisfactory, the water having a high standard of bacteriological purity.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The scheme for extension of the sewerage system was completed in September. Forty-two houses were connected during the year to the sewerage system.

In two cases conversion was from earth closets to water closets, and in forty cases from cesspool drainage to the water carriage system.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

During the year the Council undertook the collection of house refuse which was tipped on a site at the Sewage Disposal Works, Northport.

SCHOOLS.

The new County Council Senior School, Worgret Road, was opened in September.

HOUSING.

Twenty-one new houses were built at the Cockpit Site to accommodate persons displaced from clearance areas.

New Houses.

Total number of new houses erected during 1939	...	...	...	22
Number erected during 1939 with State Assistance :-				
(1) By Local Authority	...	...	...	21
(2) By Other Bodies or Persons	...	...	...	Nil
Number of houses owned by Local Authority	...	...	...	103
Approximate number of working class houses in the district	...	...	...	439

Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year.

(1) (a).	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	22
(b).	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	18
(2) (a).	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	10
(b).	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	23
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	Nil
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	12

Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	12
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

No action was taken under the Housing Act, 1936 or the Public Health Acts.

Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.

No overcrowding of dwelling-houses was discovered during the year, and no action was necessary under this part of the Housing Act.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

The following are particulars with regard to Cowsheds and Dairies :-

Cowsheds and Dairies.

Number of Persons on Register at end of 1939...	5
---	-----	-----	---

Number of Dairy Farms and other dairy premises on Register at end of 1939	...	...	...	...	3
Number of Dairy Farms inspected during 1939	...	...	...	...	3
Number of inspections during 1939	...	...	...	...	13
Number of Informal Notices served	...	...	...	...	6
Number of Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	6

No samples of milk were taken during the year for bacteriological examination.

There are no pasteurising plants in the Borough.

Meat and Other Foods.

Number of licenced slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	1
Number of registered slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	2
Number of visits to slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	143
Number of visits to places where food is prepared	...	...	...	...	70
Number of defects found	...	...	...	...	Nil

Total amount of meat condemned during the year was 85 lbs.

ADULTERATION.

The following particulars of samples taken in the district under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, were supplied by the County Medical Officer.

Description of sample	Number of samples obtained	Number of samples reported against.
Apricots (Dried).	1	-
Custard Powder.	1	-
Milk.	5	1
Quinine, Ammoniated Tincture of.	1	-
Semolina.	1	-
Sugar.	1	-
Sulphur, Flowers of.	1	-
TOTALS	11	1

Action taken with regard to sample adversely reported upon :-

Milk. Deficient in fat to the extent of 4%. Seller cautioned.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The incidence of infectious disease has remained low during 1939. The following are particulars of cases notified during the year :-

Disease	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to hospital	Age Groups	Total deaths
Scarlet Fever.	1	1	5-10	-
Diphtheria.	1	1	5-10	-
Pneumonia.	1	-	0-1	-
	1	-	?	-
Encephalitis lethargica.	1	-	65 and over	-
Measles.	1	-	3-4	-
	2	-	20-35	-
Whooping Cough.	1	-	4-5	-
	1	-	5-10	-
	1	-	?	-

Measles and Immunisation

The arrangements for immunisation against diphtheria remained the same as in the previous year.

Number of children inoculated	8
Number of children sick tested before inoculation	Nil
Number of children sick tested after inoculation	6
Number of children sick negative after inoculation	6

All the children inoculated were of pre-school age.

Tuberculosis

No action was necessary during the year under Sec. 172 Public Health Act, 1936, or under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925.

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and of all deaths during 1939 :-

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1								
5								
10								
15								
20								
25		2				1		
35								
45								
55								
65 and upwards								
Totals		2				1		

The person who died from tuberculosis had been previously notified as suffering from the disease.

Cases of Tuberculosis remaining on the Register of Notifications on 31st. December 1939 :-

Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total Cases
Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
3	3	6	0	2	2	8

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Twenty-eight inspections of factories were made - no defects were found.

